

DATE: 15 August 1972

TO: The Director

FROM: GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

STAT Each week [] (one of my very able associates) gives me a brief note on Lao political atmospherics, succinctly compressing into a few paragraphs what has happened over the preceding seven days in the complex, hothouse world of Laotian politics. I find these weekly notes quite useful. Attached is the note of 15 August sent to you as a specimen sample. If you would find it helpful, we could relay [] memos to you on a regular basis.

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George A. Carver, Jr.

Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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SUBJECT : Lao Political Atmospherics (8-15 August 1972)

2. There is nothing new on the peace talk front. Souvanna has been trying to get emissary Souk Vongsak to do his talking to Souvanna's delegate, Interior Minister Pheng Phongsavan, and Souk has finally agreed to refer the proposal to Souphanouvong. Souk has been conducting a public relations campaign around town (Vientiane) and has been making statements which contrast sharply with the hard line he takes with Souvanna.

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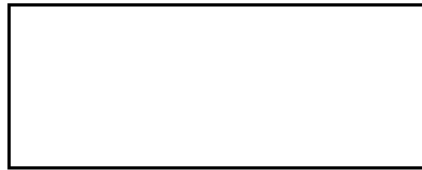
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4. Refugee relief costs will be up 1.1 million in FY 74 largely because of two factors: Japan will not be providing the rice they were supposed to make available in FY 73 with the result that the rice will have to be purchased from the aid fund; and the price of rice has gone up since the budget was projected. Also, the mission has asked for the balance of the third quarter U.S. contribution (four million dollars) to be deposited in FEOF account to obviate the need for weekly begging, as well as to calm local banking and business circle nervousness over the daily uncertainty that funds will cover requirements.



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